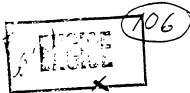


00627

1962/10/23

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State



59-M

Action

Control: 17404

Rec'd: October 23, 1962

ARA

Info

FROM: Port au Prince

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/AR

SS

TO: Secretary of State

REVIEWED BY

DATE

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SP

NO: 213, October 23, 3 p.m.

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FOIA Exemptions

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 213, INFORMATION POLAD CINCARIB, POLAD CINCLANT UNNUMBERED.

Reference: Embassy telegram 212.

RMR

Foreign Minister Chalmers called me to his office this morning (Raymond was also present) and informed me that after our talk with President Duvalier last night categorical instructions had been sent to Haitian Representatives OAS and UN to align their position with that of US. Re President Kennedy's request for some kind of public indication of Haitian support for US position in this crisis GOH was issuing today following communique (rough translation from French):

"Monday October 22 at 5 p.m. President Duvalier received American Ambassador at National Palace.

Continue quote "In course of this meeting which took place in atmosphere of mutual understanding Ambassador informed President of Republic (1) of serious preoccupations of his Government on subject of threat which offensive armament of Cuba by Soviet Russia represented for people of hemisphere;

(2) Of decisions taken by USG in face of Cuban situation:

Continue quote emphasis was placed on importance of role of Government of Republic of Haiti, neighbor of Cuba and of

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-2- 213, October 23, 3 p.m. from Port au Prince

services which Haitian armed forces, volunteers and population as (#) were called upon to render for surveillance of Haitian coast for defense of western democracy. End quote. Comment (expression civil militia was included in draft text, but I suggested it be eliminated in favor of foregoing language).

Resume quote. American Ambassador transmitted to President Duvalier, whose anti-Communist sentiments are well-known, special message from President Kennedy requesting urgently cooperation of Haitian Government in grave Cuban situation in regard to which such political differences as have existed between American peoples become insignificant.

Continue quote. American Ambassador stated he had hope in future once Cuban crisis was surmounted of close Haitian-American cooperation and that frank, good-neighbor policy will develop between the two Governments."

Though internal political use of this document obvious, I consider it serves our fundamental purposes at this time and told Chalmers that speaking for myself and for USG solid alignment with US in OAS and UN and foregoing public release were deeply appreciated. I added in keeping with circular 723 that announcement re Haitian participation in quarantine would be helpful. Asked for details, (#) referred to possible use of Haitian ports and airfields.

After Raymond had expressed desire avoid in this case all appearance of "marchandage" of kind that gave rise to unfortunate stories after last Punta del Este meeting Chalmers ticked off some current US-Haitian problems in economic and military field, ending with what he called "failure of US to give moral support to President Duvalier." I replied that I understood concretely all his references except latter. What did he have in mind specifically? He said it was note of last April about Duvalier's address to legislature and subsequent events including US press stories based on official leaks. He thought these leaks and other anti-GOH activities were result anti-Haitian bias middle and lower-ranking officials, not those on top. Perceiving little good in getting

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lgt -3- 213, October 23, 3 p.m. from Port au Prince

lgt bogged down into re-hash of all our difficulties during recent months here. I told Chalmers April note was not casual affair and was intended ~~some~~*our aid program from Haitian internal constitutional question. I stood ready discuss this and other matters referred to at any time but felt in period immediately ahead we would probably both be preoccupied with a crisis so near to us. If GOH needed help in meeting any local manifestations of this crisis US agencies here would do all possible to help. lgt

Comment: Duvalier has wisely decided align himself with us in Cuban crisis with view reinforcing his internal political position and eventually gaining material benefits. I can only hope that on risky voyage lying ahead he will not be too troublesome shipmate. lgt

THURSTON

JT/4

(#) Omission, correction to follow

* As received, will service upon request.

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